

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 NIC-01 EA-11 IO-14 SCEM-02

SAB-01 PM-07 DRC-01 /197 W
----- 049430

R 300800Z DEC 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 706

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BAGHDAD 636

1. TURKISH AMB CONTINUES TO FOLLOW CLOSELY KURDISH ISSUE. HE TOLD ME DEC 19 THAT DURING PONOMAREV VISIT RUSSIAN DEL HAD MET TWICE WITH COMMUNISTS AND KURDS, AND FOLLOWING VISIT JOINT KDP-ICP DEL HAD GONE TO SEE BARZANI. HE THOUGHT SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN PUTTING LID ON PROBLEM AND HAD HAD SOME SUCCESS, BUT DID NOT OFFER ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS.

2. ON CONTRARY, PRESS ATTACKS AND COUNTER-ATTACKS BETWEEN KDP AT-TAAXHI AND ICP ASH-SHAAB HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH OUT PAST TWO WEEKS WITH ICP ACCUSING KURDS OF FAILURE TO UPHOLD ACCORD OF NOV 20 AND OF CONTINUING TO HOLD KIDNAPPED COMMUNISTS.

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ON DECEMBER 25 TARIQ ASH-SHAAB PUBLISHED JOINT STATEMENT

OF CPS OF SYRIA, JORDAN AND LEBANON CONDENMING KURDISH MALTREATMENT OF COMMUNISTS. AT-TAAXHI DENIES ACCUSATIONS AND SUGGESTS THAT ICP IS ACTING IN INTEREST OF THIRD PARTY (PR SUMABLY GOI) TO DISTRACT KURISH PEOPLE FROM CENTRAL ISSUE OF AUTONOMY.

3. WITH REGARD TO REPORT THAT AS PART OF IRAQI-IRANIAN RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS THERE WAS AGREEMENT NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, TURKISH AMB SAID ANKARA HAD ASKED HIM TO DETERMINE VALIDITY OF THIS REPORT. HE HAD PUT IT OFFICIALLY TO MFA AND REPLY WAS THAT GOI DID NOT WISH TO EITHER CONFIRM OR DENY IT. IN ANY CASE, NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR MEDHAT IBRAHIM JUMAA LEFT FOR TEHRAN DEC 23.

4. RUSSIAN ASSESSMENT SEEMS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC. SOVIET AMBASSADOR VENIAMIN LIKHACHEV TOLD ME DURING COURTESY CALL DEC 20 THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE RESUMPTION OF LARGE SCALE FIGHTING SINCE IT NOT IN INTEREST OF EITHER SIDE. HE SAID INCREASING NUMBER OF KURDS REALIZE THAT THEIR BEST HOPE FOR FUTURE LIES WITH IRAQ, BUT THEY ARE NOT YET PREPARED "TO DOT I'S AND CROSS T'S" OF FORMAL AGREEMENT. GOI WAS NOW ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE PROBLEM THROUGH ECONOMIC MEANS AND SPREADING AROUND OIL WEALTH AND HE BELIEVES THIS OFFERS GOOD POSSIBILITIES. IN SHORT, HE FORSEES AN EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM, BUT NOTHING QUICKLY.

5. FOR MOSCOW: AMB LIKHACHEV DEPARTED DEC 30 AFTER NEARLY FOUR YEARS IN BAGHDAD. HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW NEW ASSIGNMENT. HE WAS FRIENDLY TO USINT AND INVITED US TO MOST LARGE RECEPTIONS DESPITE OUR OSTRACISM BY IRAQIS. EGYPTIAN COUNSELLOR TOLD ME IRAQIS DIDN'T PARTICULARLY LIKE HIM BECAUSE HE WAS NOT ARAB SPECIALIST, NOR WAS HIS ENGLISH STRONG. HE WILL REPORTEDLY BE REPLACED BY FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO DAMASCUS AND NICOSIA. USINT WOULD APPRECIATE BIO DATA ON NEW AMBASSADOR. LOWRIE

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